Town of



Amherst Massachusetts BOARD OF HEALTH

Phone: 413-259-3077 Fax: 413-259-2404 health@amherstma.gov Bangs Community Center 70 Boltwood Walk Amherst, MA 01002

BOARD OF HEALTH

David Ahlfeld, Chair Nancy Gilbert Julie Marcus Ilaua Schmitt, MD October 31, 2012

Amherst Select Board Town Hall 4 Boltwood Ave Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Select Board members:

At the September 27 Board of Health meeting members of the Town of Amherst Recycling and Refuse Management Committee (ARRC), the Amherst League of Women Voters, and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment provided the Board with both information about and the opportunity to further discuss the Foam-free Project's proposed town by-law, banning the use of polystyrene food containers by restaurants in Amherst.

At previous meetings, we had reviewed reports on expanded polystyrene and relative health and environmental risks, and discussed the effects of polystyrene on health and the environment. Polystyrene is made from styrene which has been listed by the National Toxicology Program of the Department of Health and Human Services as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen". Research has shown that styrene can leach from polystyrene food containers, especially when the food is hot and oily. In our view, polystyrene's risk to public health is sufficient to justify its ban for use in food containers.

During the September 27, 2012 meeting, the Board of Health unanimously approved a motion to support the efforts led by the ARRC to institute a ban on the use of expanded polystyrene disposable food and beverage containers by food establishments in the town of Amherst

Sincerely,

David Ahlfeld, Chairman Amherst Board of Health

Cc: John Musante Guilford Mooring

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